the last 5 years in Union Territory of Pondicherry. Out of the above 3 Retail Outlets and 2 LPG distributorships have been commissioned. Commissioning of one more LPG distributorship is in progress. Selection of dealers/distributors is made by Dealer Selection Boards as per procedure. Dealer Selection Boards have since been dissolved. It generally takes 6 to 12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships after interview.

Formula for the revision of dealers commission

92. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4094 given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd July, 1998 and state:

(a) whether the petrol pump dealers commission is increased due to increase in minimum wages as per fixed formula;

(b) whether this formula is practical;

(c) if so, how much per kilo litre increase in MS and HSD commission is given to dealers with every increase in 100 points in AICPI;

(d) what is the formula for increasing LPG distributors commission on this account; and

(e) whether petrol pump dealers commission formula would be reconsidered and made practicable, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a), (b) and (d) There is an approved formula for compensating the MS/HSD dealers and LPG distributors on account of increase in wages/salaries as under:—

$$\text{Revised Commission} = \text{Existing Commission} \times \frac{(1+F \times \text{New AICPI} - \text{OLD AICPI})}{\text{Old AICPI}}$$

Where F denotes the factor which is 0.05.

(AICPI—All India Consumer Price Index).

(c) Based on the AICPI at 2041 in March, 1999 as compared to 1873 in March, 1998, the dealers commission in respect of those dealers who do not incur demand draft charges increased from Rs. 411/KL to Rs. 413/KL for MS-87 and from Rs. 223/KL to Rs. 224/KL for HSD slab I and from Rs. 169/KL to Rs. 170/KL for HSD slab II. (KL I—Kilo litre)

(e) The process of review of mechanism for dealers/distributors' commission is a continuous one, carried out periodically by the Government.

Domestic diesel production

93. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic diesel production is unable to meet the demand in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of diesel likely to be imported during the current financial year; and

(c) the steps taken to gear up the domestic diesel shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Domestic diesel production is now almost sufficient to meet our domestic demand.

(b) Import of diesel during the current financial year is estimated at 4 MMT.

(c) In order to meet our domestic demand through domestic availability of petroleum products including diesel, Government has taken action for expansion of existing refining capacity and has approved setting up of new refineries in Public, Private and Joint Sectors.